

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner noted that claims 1-17 are pending in the application, and the Examiner rejected all claims. By this Amendment, claims 2 and 16 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 3, and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been presented. Thus, claims 1, 3-15, and 17 are pending in the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below, and reconsideration of all rejected claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

In item 4 on pages 2-3 the Examiner rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,311,801, issued to Takagi et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Takagi"). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections by the Examiner.

Claim 1 of the present application recites "a braking power providing unit to receive an input voltage lower than a braking voltage and to boost the input voltage to the braking voltage to brake the motor." Therefore, the lower input voltage is boosted to the braking voltage to brake the motor. The Applicant respectfully submits that at least this feature is not disclosed in Takagi.

Takagi discloses a "brake control apparatus for an elevator, which.... can realize the brake release action by immediately supplying the necessary energy to the brake coil independently of the power source voltage at the time of the brake release" (Column 3, Lines 16-26). An auxiliary power source is used to drive "the brake coil 14 at the time of the release of the brake wheel so as to excite the brake coil 14 using the stored energy at the time of the release of the brake wheel" (Column 5, Lines 30-34). Therefore, the brake control apparatus is utilized to use energy from the auxiliary power source to remove the brake from hoisting machine of the elevator. This is in direct contrast to claim 1 of the present application, which recites "a braking power providing unit to receive an input voltage lower than a braking voltage and to boost the input voltage to the braking voltage to brake the motor" (emphasis added). The Examiner identifies the brake releasing means 30 as being powered by the auxiliary power source means 31. However, claim 1 of the present application does not recite powering a brake releasing means, but rather braking the motor. Applying a brake to a motor is not tantamount to powering a brake releasing means to a brake plunger of an elevator.

Further, claim 1 of the present application, as amended, recites "a power supply to supply power to the controller, wherein the power from the power supply is used as the input

power to be supplied to the braking power providing unit.” This feature is also not disclosed in Takagi, which uses “a DC power source of a relatively low voltage similar to one used for the computer control” (Column 5, Lines 24-26). Therefore, as Takagi discloses using separate respective power sources for the computer control and for the brake coil, Takagi does not disclose “a power supply to supply power to the controller, wherein the power from the power supply is used as the input power to be supplied to the braking power providing unit.”

Therefore, Takagi does not disclose at least the features of “a braking power providing unit to receive an input voltage lower than a braking voltage and to boost the input voltage to the braking voltage to brake the motor,” and “a power supply to supply power to the controller, wherein the power from the power supply is used as the input power to be supplied to the braking power providing unit.” Accordingly, Takagi does not disclose every element of the Applicant’s claim 1. In order for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach each and every element of the claim (MPEP §2131). Therefore, since Takagi does not disclose the features recited in independent claim 1, as stated above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Takagi, and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection is earnestly and respectfully solicited.

Claims 3-15 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by Takagi. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-15 also patentably distinguish over Takagi.

Claims 2 and 16 of the present application have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 17 of the present application recites “a controller to control the braking power providing unit to brake the motor and to store input power, as stored power, to supplement the power to the braking power providing unit when braking the motor.” Therefore, for similar reasons as discussed regarding claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 also patentably distinguishes over Takagi.

Summary

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3, and 16 have been amended. Claims 2 and 16 been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been presented. Claims 1, 3-15, and 17 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is further respectfully

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submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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